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ABSTRACT

The Presidential Libraries are administered by the National Archives and Records Service and contain many audiovisual materials obtained from a variety of sources--television networks, local television stations, federal agencies, radio networks, private citizens, newsreel companies, private businesses, special interest groups, news photo agencies, national magazines, and White House personnel. Information about availability and ordering of these audiovisual materials is provided, and descriptions of the types of materials included in each of the six Presidential Libraries are listed under President by type of material. (Author/SH)

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AUDIOVISUAL HOLDINGS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES

by
The Staffs of the Presidential Libraries

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
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Preliminary draft prepared for
the National Archives Conference on the Use of Audiovisual Archives as Original Source Materials
1972

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INTRODUCTION

President Eisenhower in 1955 signed the joint resolution of Congress commonly known as the Presidential Libraries Act. Recognizing the tradition that a President's papers are his private property, the law provides for the permanent preservation of these uniquely valuable historical materials in the public interest. It permits the Federal Government to accept gifts of land, buildings, and materials from non-Federal sources and provides for their maintenance as "presidential archival depositories."

Precedent for such institutions existed in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library. It had been established under an act of Congress in 1939 to accept President Roosevelt's gift of his papers, books, and mementos. It also provided for the acceptance of a library building at Hyde Park, N.Y., financed by private donations. Before he left the White House, President Truman indicated his intention to make a similar gift to the Nation. The act of 1955 enabled the Federal Government to accept the Truman papers and to insure the preservation of anticipated donations by future Presidents, or, as in the case of Herbert Hoover, by a past President.

As of 1972 there are six Presidential libraries. They are administered by the National Archives and Records Service of the General Services Administration. The concept of a special archival depository for Presidents' papers has become a vital and valuable reality. Each is now engaged in preserving, protecting, and making available to the public its holdings. Casual visitors and serious researchers alike have been coming in ever-increasing numbers.

Presidential libraries obtain their audiovisual materials from a variety of sources, both public and private, domestic and foreign. Television networks have sent films and video tapes to the President and later donated large quantities of news coverage and special programs to the library. Local television stations offer footage of visits by the President to their localities. Federal agencies also are a source. Some, like the U.S. Information Agency and the Department of Agriculture, offer films made by and/or for them. The National Archives provides copies of material which it does not create but rather preserves. Friends, family, and associates often donate candid photography of a President engaged in activities away from his official duties. Private persons give the libraries their home movies of the President who visited their city and perhaps shook their hands. These nonprofessional products are often shaky and out of focus, but the amateurs have at times captured significant moments in history that the professional photographers missed. Newsreel companies, private businesses, and special interest groups are also sources of material; many provide films of the President speaking to their organization or visiting their facilities. The radio networks have been the source of some of the earliest Presidential sound recordings. News photo agencies and national magazines have given the libraries some of their best still photography. And, of course, the White House

employs civilian personnel to record the activities of the President and may also call upon other Government personnel.

There are limitations upon the use of much of the audiovisual holdings of Presidential libraries. A donor may, but does not necessarily, impose restrictions on reference use or prohibit sale of copies of his materials. Copyright owners do not usually assign any commercial rights along with the physical property that the library holds. And, it is well known that an act of Congress prohibits public display and sale of USIA-produced films, although some of them may be used for reference at a Presidential library. Motion picture film, magnetic video tape, and sound tape recordings and other sound recordings may not be played or viewed by mechanical means when the library has only the single copy. All such limitations and restrictions must be observed by the libraries.

The six Presidential libraries and their directors are as follows:

Herbert Hoover Library
West Branch, Iowa 52358
Mr. Thomas T. Thalken, Director
Telephone: (319) 643-5301

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library
Hyde Park, N.Y. 12538
Mr. J. C. James, Director
Telephone: (914) 229-8114

Harry S. Truman Library
Independence, Mo. 64050
Dr. Benedict K. Zobrist, Director
Telephone: (816) 374-6235

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library
Abilene, Kans. 67410
Dr. John E. Wickman, Director
Telephone: (913) 827-9738

John F. Kennedy Library
Federal Records Center
380 Trapelo Road
Waltham, Mass. 02154
Mr. Dan H. Fenn, Jr., Director
Telephone: (617) 223-7250

Lyndon Baines Johnson Library
2313 Red River
Austin, Tex. 78705
Mr. Harry J. Middleton, Director
Telephone: (512) 397-5137

The John F. Kennedy Library is open to researchers from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; the other five libraries, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Lyndon Baines Johnson Library has not yet opened its audiovisual holdings to research.

Reproductions may be ordered from the libraries.

Office of Presidential Libraries
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D.C. 20408

October 2, 1972

STILL PICTURES. 1914-72. 19,000 items.

Photographs relating to the life and career of President Hoover from his early boyhood until his death. Included also are groups of photographs on subjects such as the construction of the Hoover Dam, the Mississippi and Vermont floods of 1927, and the Presidential retreat at Rapidan, Va.

The White House collection of photographs assembled by Mrs. Herbert Hoover (Lou Henry Hoover) to illustrate a book on the history of the White House. Although the work was never published, the prints were kept separately with a draft of the text. The photographs show changes in the White House under several administrations.

Photographs that came to the library with the papers of Senator Bourke B. Hickenlooper relating to the Senator's public life.

MOTION PICTURES. 1917-72. 355 reels.

Films dealing with Hoover's career as Food Administrator during World War I, as Secretary of Commerce, and as President.

Home movies taken by the Hoover family, 1924-44, about half during the Presidential years. They show children, grandchildren, friends, pets, and recreational activities. Included are scenes of the goodwill tour of Latin America that President-elect Hoover made in 1928. They show receptions, parades, dinners, and other activities in nearly every country visited.

SOUND RECORDINGS. 1924-72. 275 items.

Recordings of addresses or interviews of President Hoover, including major speeches of the 1932 campaign.

A group of recordings that accompanied the papers of Verne Marshall, chairman of the No Foreign War Committee, an organization that functioned in 1940 and 1941 dedicated to the prevention of U.S. involvement in World War II.

STILL PICTURES. 1870-1972. 97,000 items.

The General Collection, 1870-1965. 60,000 items. Photographs of President and Mrs. Roosevelt and their family; photographs taken by family members, professional and commercial photographers, some of them dating back to the period of the daguerreotype, many of them existing as original "snapshots" bound in albums; photographs taken by Franklin D. Roosevelt during the period 1895-1910, in albums; photographs made by commercial, private, and Government photographers of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt, 1910-52, and of the latter from 1952 until her death in 1962. The photographs are arranged in four main groups: Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1882-1945; Eleanor Roosevelt, 1884-1962; persons (other than President and Mrs. Roosevelt), 1860-1960; and places, arranged alphabetically by location.

The Piersall Collection. 379 items. Photographs of Hyde Park taken by resident Charles Piersall in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The glass negatives are in fine condition.

President Roosevelt's Collection of Historical Naval Photographs and Artworks and General Marine Subjects. 1,209 items. Photographs and artworks of American naval vessels of all types, naval actions, and individuals in the 19th and 20th centuries. The collection was begun by Roosevelt during his years as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, 1912-20, and continued during the presidency. Certain items were donated by friends and Navy Department sources.

The Constant Collection. 817 items. Photographs taken by Maurice Constant as a civilian and as a commissioned naval photographer during World War II of prominent public figures and naval and military officers.

The Harry L. Hopkins Collection. 2,173 items. Photographs and albums of Hopkins, his family and associates during his service as WPA Administrator, Secretary of Commerce, and as Special Assistant to President Roosevelt during World War II. The loose pictures have been interfiled with the President's collection.

The Robert D. Graff (Sextant Productions) Collection. 3,065 items. Several subcollections pertaining to Sextant Productions' 26-episode television series entitled "F.D.R." produced for the American Broadcasting System. The subcollections consist of pictures from museums, libraries, and archives (including the Roosevelt Library); pictures by private photographers including Thomas McAvoy, Erich Hartmann, Phillippe Halsman, and George Skadding; and photographs prepared for the production.

The Samuel I. Rosenman Collection. 86 items. Photographs collected by Judge Rosenman of his friends, including the President. Also candid snapshots of the President during various cruises and trips.

The Leo Rosenthal Collection. 377 items. Photographs of Mrs. Roosevelt taken by Rosenthal, as a member of the United Nations press photographer's corps.

The Library of Congress Collection. 6,917 items. A collection, mostly from Government sources, of homefront activities during World War II, including war bond drives, publicity pictures for various wartime agencies, scrap rubber drives, the victory garden program, and similar activities.

The Abbie Rowe Collection. 446 items. Photographs of the President and the White House during the period 1937-45. Those prior to November 1941 were taken by Interior Department staff photographers; those after that date were taken mainly by Abbie Rowe, also of the Department of the Interior. Included are photographs of the White House interior and its furnishings, particularly the family quarters, 1937-41; President and Mrs. Roosevelt's activities in and around Washington, 1940-45, which are dated and identified; their activities during the period 1937-40 which are unidentified as to date, place, or event; President Truman being sworn in as President of the United States; and funeral services and activities at Union Station and the White House on the occasion of President Roosevelt's death.

Adm. Ross T. McIntire Collection. 942 items. Photographs of construction and dedication ceremonies of naval medical installations; McIntire's wartime and postwar inspection tours of naval medical facilities; his trips to Hawaii, the Philippines, Guam, and Japan in 1945-46; the Red Cross blood donor program, 1945; the program of the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation; hospital ships and ship christenings; and U.S. Naval Medical Corps officers.

The Library's Collection. Photographs in and around the library of memorial programs, dedications, visiting dignitaries, the museum galleries, and individual museum objects.

The George Brown Collection. 211 items. Photographs of activities at the Franklin D. Roosevelt house and library taken by the local newspaper, the Hyde Park Townsman.

Other Collections. Additional collections have lost their identity as a result of the early practice of interfiling gifts of photographs in the general file of pictures of the President or in the persons or places files (see general description above). Bound photographic albums, however, have retained their identity. There are albums of Nathan Straus (140 photographs in five albums); Aubrey Williams, National Youth Administrator (607 items, some in albums); and John M. Carmody, an administrator of several New Deal agencies (748 items, some in albums). Collections absorbed into the general collection include those donated by the Democratic National Committee and the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Other donors who included photographs in their gifts of manuscripts and whose collections

have been integrated with the general photograph files include John G. Winant (320 items), Morris L. Cooke (113 items), Henry Morgenthau, Jr. (613 items), Emil Hurja (331 items), Louis B. Wehle (88 items), Adm. Wilson Brown (49 items), William Rigdon (106 items), Hilda Smith (66 items), Leland Olds (168 items), and Bette B. Hammer (143 items).

Color photography. Because color photography for commercial purposes was introduced only in recent years there are few examples of its use during the Roosevelt period. There are, however, several color photographs of the President at the Crimea Conference in 1945, a portrait of him made in June 1944 by B. Movin-Hermes, photographer to the King of Sweden, and a recently discovered portrait dated October 1932 by a photographer for the Milwaukee Journal. This early example of professional color work has been recopied and color-retouched for display in the museum.

Color photographs of Mrs. Roosevelt are more numerous but constitute a very small fraction of the total collection. Most of these are informal Kodacolor prints, often from amateur sources, although there are examples of professional color photography.

In response to requests, the library is constantly adding to a small collection of transparencies of library exhibits, historical naval paintings, and other items among the collections.

MOTION PICTURES. 1920-62. 322 reels.

The President's Collection. 200 reels. Film presented to the library by the President and after his death by his estate. It includes newsreels produced by Movietone, Pathe, Fox, Paramount, and Universal that trace Roosevelt's activities from the 1932 presidential campaign until his death. Also included are films produced by various Government agencies including the Department of Commerce (the 1940 census series), the Works Progress Administration, the National Youth Administration, and the Navy Department. The latter two agencies produced perhaps the only extant color film of the President's activities during the period 1939-45. The NYA films cover the U.S. visit of King George and Queen Elizabeth in 1939 and inauguration in 1941. The Navy Department films are a series made during the President's wartime inspection trips and overseas conferences, 1940-45, including color closeups of the Allied war leaders at Cairo, Teheran, and Yalta, as well as views of the President's "off camera" informal activities, such as fishing. Also included are a series of reels compiled from newsreel footage by Castle Films showing the highlights of the President's years in office and combat films from the war theaters. Documentary war films include "War for Men's Minds," "The Nazis Strike," "The Battle of Russia," "The Battle of China," "Desert Victory," "Prelude to War," "The Battle of Britain," "Divide and Conquer," and "The Negro Soldier;" and coverage of all the wartime conferences, including the Churchill-Roosevelt meeting at Argentia in 1941.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Collection. 27 reels. Films presented to the library by Mrs. Roosevelt of the President's 1933 cruise on "Amberjack II," obituaries of the President produced by Paramount and Pathe, and "Pursuit of Happiness," a documentary produced for the Democratic Committee for the Arts in 1956 with an introduction by Senator John F. Kennedy. Films received from Mrs. Roosevelt on her own career and interests including amateur film taken during her Caribbean tour of 1934, a "featurette" of the Roosevelt home at Hyde Park produced for children, appearances on the CBS television program "Face the Nation," political activities in 1956 and 1960, including her address to the 1956 Democratic Convention, film reflecting her interest in the newly proclaimed states of Israel and Indonesia, and "A Conversation With Eleanor Roosevelt" produced for television by NBC in 1959.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library Collection. 95 reels. Films on the personal and political lives and careers of President and Mrs. Roosevelt, produced by amateur and professional filmmakers, some of which has been shown in theaters and over national television networks. Among the items produced by amateurs are films taken by Miss Nancy Cook (portions seen in 1972 on NBC television), Mrs. Harry Edson (formerly Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt), Mrs. H. Lynn Peirson, Samuel I. Rosenman, and Frank Mylod, showing the President, and occasionally Mrs. Roosevelt, at Hyde Park, Warm Springs, and Campobello; fishing in Texas Gulf waters; and on political trips in New York and elsewhere. Films produced for the theater and for television include the following: the "F.D.R." series (26 episodes for ABC-TV), "F.D.R. Remembered" (CBS), "Lest We Forget" (Democratic National Committee, 1944), obituaries of Mrs. Roosevelt (CBS and NBC-TV) and Sir Winston Churchill (CBS), "The Eleanor Roosevelt Story," The Heritage Series on Mrs. Roosevelt (NET), and a series of film clips for television showing Mrs. Roosevelt's activities during the post-White House years (CBS). Other films include segments of television series and pilot film projects featuring Mrs. Roosevelt, independently produced films made at Hyde Park, Warm Springs, and Campobello some of which show the President informally, and miscellaneous newsreel films of President and Mrs. Roosevelt's activities.

SOUND RECORDINGS. 1913-72. 3,238 items.

The President's Collection, 1923-45. 1,020 items. Recordings of speeches of the President; political speeches and radio appearances by administration spokesmen; programs of music performed by Federal Music Project orchestras, bands, vocal ensembles, and artists; radio dramatizations produced by Federal agencies; political and nonpolitical radio addresses by associates and members of the President's family, including his wife and mother; political songs recorded by professional and nonprofessional artists given to the President; and poetry and dramatic readings sent to the President by Government agencies and professional artists.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Collection, 1939-72. 363 items. Recordings received from Mrs. Roosevelt, or from her estate, including two radio series, 1940-41 and 1950-51, each of which featured guests interviewed by Mrs. Roosevelt; recordings of miscellaneous speeches by President and Mrs. Roosevelt and others; radio interviews of Mrs. Roosevelt, Louis M. Howe, Anna Roosevelt, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.; recordings produced for the United Nations, particularly in connection with the Human Rights Declaration; Mrs. Roosevelt's statements during political campaigns, 1940-60; recordings of music by professional and nonprofessional musicians, vocalists, and performing artists, both commercially and privately produced, sent to or collected by Mrs. Roosevelt, which reflect her interests in politics and civil and human rights.

The Thomas J. Watson Collection. 979 discs. Another complete (except as noted under National Broadcasting Co. below) set of recorded speeches of the President.

The National Broadcasting Co. Collection, 1971- . 28 items. Presidential speeches not found among the National Archives or the Watson collections and furnished the library by NBC News.

The W. H. Utterback, Jr., Collection, 1970- . 74 items. Recordings of selected Presidential addresses and utterances from sources other than the National Archives. The donor continues to add items to this collection.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library Collection 1946- . 764 items. Recordings found among manuscript collections accessioned by the Roosevelt Library. They include Presidential speeches made in the Hyde Park-Poughkeepsie area and recorded by WKIP Radio, Poughkeepsie; other copies of Presidential speeches; speech excerpts, some from commercial sources; interviews from network sources pertaining to President and Mrs. Roosevelt; radio presentations by manuscript donors including, among others, Adm. Ross McIntire, Leon Henderson, and Louis M. Howe; the only recordings of the President's press conferences from August to November 1940, made by the National Archives from experimental recording machines developed by RCA; recordings of memorial exercises in honor of President and Mrs. Roosevelt; and material pertaining to President and Mrs. Roosevelt from all major network sources.

THE HARRY S. TRUMAN LIBRARY

STILL PICTURES. 1850-1972. 59,619 items.

Photographs donated by Harry S. Truman and pertaining mostly to the former President's life and public career and to the history of the Truman administration. Included are official Government photographs and pictures taken by newspaper photographers and private individuals. Also included are photographs relating to Truman's pre-Presidential career; portraits of foreign chiefs of state made during the period of the Truman administration and studio portraits of Truman administration officials; and photographs on miscellaneous subjects presented to President Truman as gifts while he was in the White House.

Photographs of President Harry S. Truman taken in his youth and as a young man and of a number of his ancestors and relatives, most of them donated to the library by Mary Ethel Noland.

Photographs donated by friends of President Truman and Truman administration officials including Raymond M. Foley, James H. Foskett, J. Howard McGrath, Frank Pace, Jr., Charles G. Ross, James E. Webb, Stephen A. Mitchell, Lou E. Holland, John W. Snyder, Myron M. Cowen, and others, and relating mostly to the public careers of the donors.

Photographs taken at the Truman Library and elsewhere, principally by the library's staff photographer, including pictures of the former President, visitors to the library, members of the library staff and of the library building.

Photographs of buildings and sites of historical interest in Jackson County, Missouri, and elsewhere.

A collection of photographs documenting U.S. participation in World War I.

MOTION PICTURES. 1944-65. 253 reels.

Newsreel and other motion pictures relating to the career of Harry S. Truman, including films illustrating the history of the Truman administration and motion pictures relating to Truman's post-Presidential activities.

Television documentaries and news specials concerning President Truman and the Truman administration; and filmed interviews with President Truman and other notables, principally concerning the Truman administration.

A miscellaneous collection of motion pictures on a great variety of subjects presented to President Truman when he was in the White House or given to the library by the former President and other donors.

SOUND RECORDINGS. 1944-72. 2,366 items.

Recordings of speeches and remarks delivered by President Truman, 1945-53; recordings of his press conferences, 1951-53; and recordings of his post-Presidential speeches and press conferences, 1953-66.

Recordings of speeches, remarks, and interviews by Alben W. Barkley, Lyndon B. Johnson, W. Averell Harriman, Chester W. Nimitz, Dwight D. Eisenhower, George C. Marshall, Hubert H. Humphrey, Eleanor Roosevelt, Stephen A. Mitchell, and others.

Recordings of ceremonies, conferences, meetings, and other special events held at the Truman Library, 1957-72.

Speeches delivered by prominent individuals at the National Press Club, Washington, D.C., 1952-68.

Recordings of a miscellaneous nature, consisting largely of popular music, presented to Truman when he was President.

STILL PICTURES. 1941-69. 76,000 items.

Photographs, some dating as early as 1900, relating to Eisenhower's pre-Presidential years, many taken by the Signal Corps during World War II, mostly 1943-44. Photographs covering General Eisenhower's service as Supreme Commander, Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), 1950-52, and his 1952 campaign for the Presidency. Most of the campaign photographs were taken by the press.

Photographs made during the Presidential years, 1953-61, including many by Abbie Rowe, photographer of the National Park Service who was assigned to the White House.

Photographs covering the post-Presidential years, 1961-69. A significant number of these are in color.

MOTION PICTURES. 1919 and 1941-69. 395 reels.

Newsreels of General Eisenhower during World War II, as Supreme Commander, Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), and of the 1952 Presidential campaign, including his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention. Also included is a 200-foot film of the 1919 cross-country Army Motor Convoy in which Eisenhower participated. The largest portion of the film relates to the Presidential period and consists of newsreels, news releases, and other films covering events such as the inaugurals, news conferences, and speeches including his address to the United Nations on "Atoms for Peace" and at groundbreaking ceremonies at Lincoln Center, and activities of Cabinet members or other administration officials.

Film for the post-Presidential period consists mainly of color coverage of the funeral of General Eisenhower.

Other films presented to General Eisenhower or to the library by private individuals or organizations include Khrushchev's visit to the United States as shown on the program "Eye Witness to History," one of the Kennedy-Nixon debates in the 1960 campaign, and a conversation with Herbert Hoover. Also included are such films as "The White House Story," "The American Road," and "Faces of Lincoln."

SOUND RECORDINGS. 1952-ca.1968. 2,150 items.

The recordings include 68 speeches given by General Eisenhower during the 1952 campaign and 146 reels of speeches at the National Press Club, Washington, D.C. The latter were given by dignitaries invited to address the club on various occasions. Also included are recordings from the James Hagerty collection.

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY

The audiovisual holdings are from the White House, Government agencies, and private sources. The core of the holdings was produced by the White House. President Kennedy's public addresses were recorded by the White House Communications Agency. The Offices of the Military and Naval Aides had both still and motion picture photographers covering President Kennedy from his inauguration, January 20, 1961, until his burial, November 25, 1963. Together with photographs made by a National Park Service photographer who covered the White House, there is a fairly complete day-by-day coverage of Kennedy's activities as President. Many of the more than 40 persons who donated their personal papers to the library also gave audiovisual materials. Still other donors were the mass media, private organizations, and numerous individuals.

STILL PICTURES. 1918-70. 65,000 items.

Photographs, about half in color, made by White House photographers of public functions such as official trips (except those to Canada and to Paris and Vienna in 1961), and meetings and ceremonies at the White House and elsewhere. Some are of President Kennedy on vacation and of his family.

Photographs from Government agencies of President Kennedy signing legislation, visiting Government installations, or engaged in activities related to missions of Government agencies. The agencies of origin include the National Park Service, U.S. Army Signal Corps, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labor, and the National Archives and Records Service.

Newspaper, magazine, wirepress agency, and some organization photographs of John F. Kennedy, dating back to the 1960 campaign and earlier and to memorial services for him. A large part of these are on microfilm. Among the contributors were the New York Times, Newsweek, Look, Justice (ILGWU), Wide World, Magnum, and Black Star.

"Snapshots" donated by individuals, many from foreign countries, showing President Kennedy traveling through the donor's area. Some are of local memorial services for President Kennedy.

MOTION PICTURES. 1935-(1951-67)-1971. 1,200 reels.

Films by White House photographers of President Kennedy's official activities, such as trips, meetings, ceremonies, interviews, and addresses; and of many of his leisure-time activities at Hyannisport, Atoka, Palm Beach, and elsewhere.

Films fron Government agencies, such as the Naval Photographic Center, of President Kennedy's official activities, particularly as they related to the agency.

News coverage by television networks of Kennedy's activities as a Member of Congress and as President.

Original cartoons, 1912-68, relating to Boston politics, Kennedy as a Senator, the 1960 Presidential campaign, the Presidential years, and the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The John F. Kennedy Library also has on deposit some films that are available for rent. These include films of the Kennedy-Nixon debates of 1960, Kennedy's address to the Greater Houston Ministerial Association, and "A Thousand Days."

SOUND RECORDINGS. 1928-(1961-66)-1972. 2,000 items.

Recordings made by the White House Communications Agency of Presidential addresses and remarks.

Recordings from private organizations, such as the National Association of Broadcasters, of Kennedy's speeches during his Congressional career, the 1960 Presidential campaign, and as President; recordings of the 1956 and 1960 Democratic National Conventions; and some political spot advertisements.

Recordings from private individuals of speeches by President Kennedy; of songs, poetry, and music that memorialize the President; and of memorial services for the President. Some of these were sent to President Kennedy as "demonstration" items by people looking for help in beginning a recording career.